

March Madness



Gamecocks hold off Razorbacks. 1C



Tigers fall to Cavs in overtime. 1C



SAINT JOE'S: Hawks lose first of season. 3C

The Post and Courier

Charleston • North Charleston, S.C.

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FRIDAY

March 12, 2004



Mostly sunny, mild in afternoon.
High 68.
Low 39.

IRAQ/WAR ON TERROR

- ▶ **Iraqi police suspected in road attack. 6A**
- ▶ **Former reporter accused of spying for Iraq. 6A**

S.C. House rejects higher cigarette taxes

Several attempts to increase taxes on a pack of smokes to fund such programs as Medicaid, libraries and the State Employee Health Plan, were voted down as the GOP majority kept a \$5.3 billion spending plan intact. 1B

Folly fights to keep renourishment funds

President Bush's 2004-05 budget removed funding for beach renourishment, but Folly Beach is counting on a replenished beach to maintain tourism and property values. 1B

Greenspan says jobs are on the way soon

The Federal Reserve chairman also warned a congressional committee that Social Security does not have the resources to keep promises made to soon-to-retire baby boomers. 7B

Police, protesters shoot it out in Haiti

Shots rang out as hundreds of protesters marched through a Port-au-Prince neighborhood, leaving two men dead and seven others being treated for gunshot wounds, according to hospital officials. U.S. Marines raided a house but found no weapons. 4A

S. Korean lawmakers vote to impeach Roh

The parliament impeached President Roh Moo-hyun for incompetence and on charges of illegal electioneering after a rowdy clash in which many pro-Roh party members were forcibly removed from the chambers. 4A

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Firefighters carry out a body on a stretcher out of the wreckage of a passenger train after several explosions Thursday in Madrid killed more than 190 rush-hour commuters.

SPAIN COUNTS DEAD FROM DAY OF TERROR

Basque separatists, al-Qaida suspected in blasts that kill 192, injure 1,400

BY MAR ROMAN
Associated Press

MADRID, SPAIN—Spanish officials investigating the nation's worst terrorist attack were faced Thursday with the possibility that the Basque separatist group ETA has substantially changed its tactics or that Muslim terrorists have chosen a new target as revenge for aiding the United States in Iraq.

The government put the ETA at the top of its list of suspects, but a shadowy group has claimed responsibility in the name of al-Qaida. The Arabic newspaper Al-Quds al-Arabi said it had received a claim of responsibility issued in the name of al-Qaida. The e-mail claim, signed by the shadowy Brigade of Abu Hafs al-Masri, was received at the newspaper's London offices and said the brigade's "death squad" had penetrated "one of the pillars of the crusade alliance, Spain."

A series of bombs hidden in backpacks exploded in quick succession Thursday, blowing apart four commuter trains and killing at least 192 people and wounding more than 1,400.

Panicked rush-hour commuters trampled on each other, abandoning their bags and shoes, after two of the bombs went off in one train in the Atocha station in the heart of Madrid. Train cars were turned into twisted wrecks and platforms

were strewn with corpses. Cell phones rang unanswered on the bodies of the dead as frantic relatives tried to call them.

"March 11, 2004, now holds its place in the history of infamy," Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said.

"An act of barbaric terrorism has engulfed Spain with profound pain, repulsion and anger," King Juan Carlos said on national television.

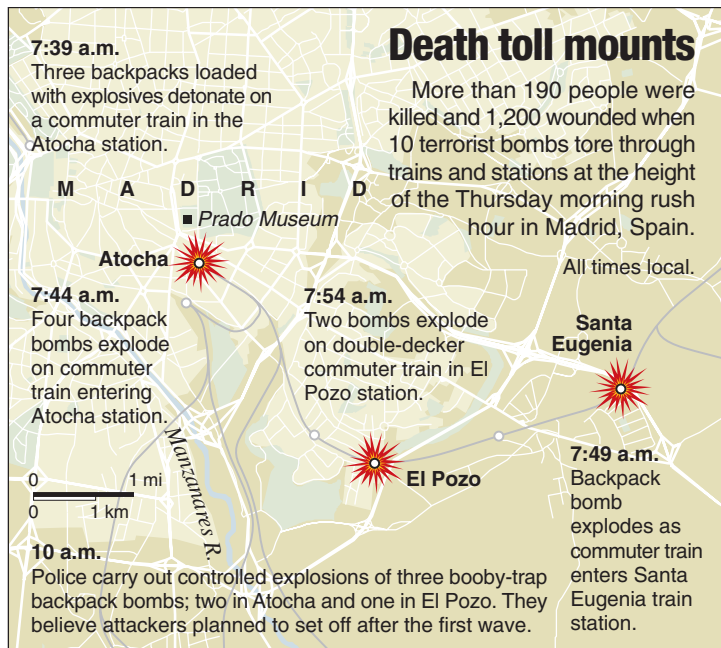
The bombings came three days ahead of Spain's general election on Sunday. A major campaign issue was how to deal with ETA, the Basque militant group that is seeking greater autonomy.

Campaigning for the election was called off and three days of mourning were declared.

The bombings occurred exactly 2½ years after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States, and was Europe's worst since the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people.

The 10 backpack bombs exploded in a 15-minute span, starting about 7:39 a.m., on trains along nine miles of commuter line from Santa Eugenia to the Atocha terminal, a bustling hub for subway, commuter and long-distance trains just south of the famed Prado Museum. Police also found and

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TERRORIST ATTACK IN SPAIN

WORLD REACTION

Nations condemn attack

The United States and France expressed sympathy and solidarity with Spain. U.S. intelligence and law enforcement officials worked with Spanish officials. 5A

CHARLESTON CONNECTION

Professor saw blast site

Celeste Lacroix, an assistant professor of communications, was on her way to the airport to return to Charleston when she saw the destruction of the bombings in Madrid. 5A

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Investigation to take time

Hours after Spanish leaders blamed Basque terrorists for Thursday's bombs, a shadowy Muslim militant group claimed responsibility in the name of al-Qaida, and a van found near the attacks had detonators inside plus tapes of Quranic verses. 5A

STOCK MARKET

Investors rattled

The Dow fell 168.51 to 10,128.38, while the Nasdaq lost 20.26 to 1,943.89, as the bombings in Spain rekindled Wall Street's terrorism fears. 7B



A woman with a poster protesting the Basque separatist group ETA, which authorities think might have been behind the bombings.

Promising cyclist, 25, dies in accident

Wonders knocked into ditch by pickup

BY DAVID QUICK
Of The Post and Courier Staff

A promising South Carolina cyclist died after being struck during a training ride by a pickup truck on a secondary road known as "Old (U.S.) Highway 52" about six miles south of Moncks Corner. Garrett Patrick Wonders, 25, an instructor at the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command school at the Naval Weapons Station in Goose Creek, was regarded as the fastest cyclist in the Lowcountry and a tough competitor throughout the Southeast. For several years, the Ohio na-

tive raced bicycles. He was moving up the professional circuit with his sights set on the U.S. Olympic team trials and 2004 U.S. Cycling Federation Elite National Road Championships in Redlands, Calif. He was a vital part of the local cycling community and helped form the Low Country VW Racing Team.

At 2:55 p.m. Wednesday, Wonders was riding alone near the outer white line of northbound State Road 791, or Old Highway 52, when he was side-swiped by a northbound 1995 Ford pickup

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Cyclist Garrett Wonders, 25, was killed by a motorist Wednesday while riding his bike.

House OKs higher fines for indecent broadcasts

BY JONATHAN KRIM
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON—The House on Thursday approved sharply higher fines for broadcasters and entertainers who break indecency rules, as Congress moves closer to cracking down on incidents that are deemed obscene or profane.

The Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2004, which passed 391-22, would give the Federal Communications Commission the ability to levy fines of up to \$500,000 per violation, up from the current \$27,500. Because many shows are syndicated and played on numerous stations throughout the country, fines could run into the millions of dollars. Broadcasters could have their li-

censes revoked after a third violation.

The action follows public outcry over the baring of singer Janet Jackson's right breast by singer Justin Timberlake during the televised half-time show at the Super Bowl last month.

Last year, singer Bono used an expletive during the Golden Globe awards show. The FCC originally ruled the utterance did not violate its indecency standards, but it is now reviewing the decision.

"It is time that we reclaim America's airwaves for decency, and today's passage is a firm message from the House to broadcasters and entertainers alike that we have had enough," said Rep. Joe

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